

Dear Connecticut, Legislative Council and Representatives:

Good morning and thank you for your work in making Connecticut a better State for all to live, work, raise families and make memories we all can cherish. I work, live here in Connecticut and enjoy doing so and want to see everyone live safely, thrive and make memories worth remembering.

I am writing to you concerning two bills that are up for discussion and possible debate. One bill is S.B. NO 477-An Act Concerning Public Health of Residents. As titled, it would easily catch the attention of any residents concerned in keeping Connecticut safe from any developing trends that may be detrimental to our communities.

In reviewing the bill, it intends to “establish a 21 member Commision on Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention and coordinate the funding and implementation of programs and strategies to reduce community gun violence in the State. Through grants and guidance to organizations working toward reducing gun violence the Commision can accept any gift, donation or bequest for the performance of their duties”.

On its face the wording tells the reader of violence occurring daily in our communities to the level requiring the formation of a Commision, 21 members in total to reduce the violence. That Is alarming, No one wants violence. Once that is chosen it affects all involved on several fronts. It hurts families of the victims, the perpetrators family and lastly neighborhoods scared by incidents where there is no reset button to undo the harm, serious bodily injuries, killings, and the expense from medical and legal aspects of incarceration our state bears and emotional destruction done by those with little to no concern what path of damage is done as their choices are NOT consistent with living in accordance with a lawful society.

That said I do NOT support S.B. NO 477- as it will only affect legal gun owners, our local firearm industry whose families subsist from doing legal business here in Connecticut and introduce more laws and

ordinances that will NOT stop the violence that occurs daily and shooting sports, hunting etc tens of thousands Connecticut residents participate every day, LEGALLY in Connecticut.

Connecticut is ALREADY one of the most restrictive States in our Union regarding firearms. America has 20,000+ gun laws found locally, Statewide, Nationally and yet has that stopped those who choose violence? No, it has not. These bills are worded so any resident would easily co-sign their intention never get a chance to weigh the realities they create. Anti-gun groups have been systematically only interested in law by law slowly stripping all ownership, lawful use of firearms with total disregard to both the firearm industry Connecticut families build our communities stronger and no adherents to our Constitution, the Second Amendment.

For example, with executive orders that first restricted gun sales and continued delays firearm permit renewals all in the name of a pandemic emergency which was illegal and once a federal lawsuit was submitted and successfully **won** protecting the rights of Connecticut residents and Americans to buy, use, store, enjoy our firearms and yet again now wants more gun control that blatantly attacks lawful gun owners.

Governor Lamont went as far as to say, “more legal guns in the home means more gun violence”. He continued, “**you’re not tough on crime if you’re weak on guns**”. He is entitled to his opinion yet that does not make law or set precedence here in Connecticut.

Rep Stafstrom, co-chair of the Judiciary Committee told reporters that “the uptick in certain criminal activity we have seen during the pandemic corresponds with a surge in gun sales' '. Stafstrom agreed with Governor Lamont’s proposals and added that Connecticut should also investigate microstamping ammunition and firearm purchase limits. How would that stop criminals, gang members who use any weapons available inhibit their daily activities. Yet it will hurt those who purchase and sell ammunition here in Connecticut. You do know we

already must present a legal permit to purchase ammunition in Connecticut so how will limiting the amount of ammunition slow the trend. What factual data do District attorneys have in their prosecutions that support that statement? There is none.

Here is a list of proposals:

Stop the flow of illegal “ghost guns”, by requiring registration of pre-2019 “ghost guns”. Back in 2019 Lamont banned “Ghost guns” in Connecticut, but those that were manufactured prior to 2019 were grandfathered in, now he is calling for registrations of those grandfather firearms.

FACT: Manufacturing a firearm and then assigning a

–Ensure gun stores take their obligations seriously by creating a state license for all gun dealers in Connecticut. Allowing the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to enforce those laws, security requirements and inventory tracking. So, the state can provide oversight and guidance to Federally Licensed Firearm dealers.

FACT: Thankfully, there are not many Firearm stores broken into and inventory and supplies stolen here in Ct. All stores and their FFL owners easily meet the requirements for brick & motor retail. It asks to track inventories. How? Reference Federal Public Law 99-308 which prevents the Government from establishing a gun registry of ANY KIND. This would violate federal law; this is a no go.

–Modify carry laws, gun owners are allowed to carry essentially everywhere in Connecticut, even in many sensitive locations like polling places and protests. Police officers cannot ask those “brandishing weapons”, for their permit unless they suspect they’ve committed a crime. Gov Lamont wants to make it easier for law enforcement officers to request gun permits and **ban the carrying of firearms in polling places, public buildings, public transit, and at demonstrations (such as marches, rallies, vigils, sit-ins, protests, etc.)**

FACT: Our Second Amendment clearly states “shall not be infringed” so where and how legal firearm owner's carry are already established here in Connecticut yet Governor Lamont and these commissions want to inhibit and restrict further. There is no data demonstrating any harm or violence occurring here in Connecticut when firearm owners legally carry, concealed or open carry and crimes and violence increase.

–***Close loopholes in assault weapons laws***, by expanding the already long list of banned “assault weapons” to include guns with so-called “arm braces” and to include pre-1993 guns and mandate registration for those who own these.

FACT: These braces do nothing to encourage the user to break the law, instantly become criminal or somehow make the firearm more lethal.

–***Strengthen laws on safe storage of firearms*** by providing more guidance to gun owners on what qualifies as safe storage in their home and to require all firearms, not just pistols and revolvers, to be sold with a trigger lock.

FACT: Every firearm purchase is sold with a gun lock. Safe storage has been already addressed with both criminal and civil penalties for unsafe storage. Do legislators want to have more authority over what happens in our homes because they are firearm owners? Clearly the 4th Amendment should be referenced and followed but yet again anti-gun zealots care nothing for our Constitution and it’s intent.

–***Reestablish a Connecticut Gun Tracing Task Force***. Governor Lamont Is that the same taskforce that that your administration and the administration before you unfunded?

FACT: Yet again. How would trace firearms without establishing a database? You cannot. You're also in violation of Public Act 99-308, May 19th, 1986 if any local, Statewide or Federal law enforcement do so.

–***Launching a statewide gun buyback program***.

FACT: If citizens want to turn in their guns, fine, take the nominal fee given and after that local department confirms the firearm isn’t stolen via N.C.I.C they will destroy it. Question? Several communities have attempted to make law a buyback program that is not voluntary but mandatory under ordinance and threat of arrest and criminal prosecution? That would be vigorously defended in the Courts of Connecticut by active members of our 2A community who hold dear our Constitution rights.

–***Make domestic/family violence convictions an automatic disqualifier for holding a permit***. And get rid of the applicants’ right to appeal the decision in front of the Firearms Permit Examiners Board.

FACT: Red flag laws do little to stop the scourge of domestic violence and is the above language no chance to appeal? So that would abolish a citizen

from their legal right of appeal that has been done Statewide and Federally for all other Court cases?

–***Train officers in highway interdiction techniques*** and deploy those officers strategically to stem the flow of guns into the state.

FACT: This is nothing but nicely worded profiling. Profiling has been strongly discouraged throughout America yet it's o.k. because the topic involves firearms. This will not increase safety yet open Police agencies across Connecticut to yet more lawsuits when legal, lawful owners of firearms where bear the weight of harassment and Police contacts that place them on the defensive when it is completely legal to go camping, transport for shows and shooting competitions, etc without undue harassment.

Lastly, I do not support H.B. NO 5397- AN ACT CONCERNING GUN VIOLENCE.

This advisory committee will be staffed by individuals who do not support our Second Amendment, who are against ownership, use, for firearms and do not share the many positives of firearm ownership. Will they sit with students, both kindergarten, elementary and High School students, discuss proper gun safety, the use of guns is for hunting, shooting sports and NOT for settling disputes? Early education that is positive, not what is demonstrated in t.v. shows and movies and mindsets found in communities plagued not by gun violence where the firearm is at fault, it is secondary to gang violence and drug usage rampant in every community.

To fix the scourge of gun violence the media and Democratic leaders shout from the rooftops misleads the listener to the factual correlation that illegal gun usage is done by gang violence involved in narcotic sales and trafficking. Those are the industries legislators should shine light on. Mental health has exponentially gone upward due to people's daily routine changed because of the pandemic. Gun deaths are a tragedy. Yet most gun deaths are due to Suicide, not violence. Bans on assault style weapons account for less than 1% of shootings. Firearms used for shooting mostly come from out of state, they were stolen, used by individuals who actively choose crime instead of following the law as you and I do. That is what should be targeted.

I respectfully submit my comments for your review and would be happy to respectfully discuss any SOLUTIONS to issues that affect our communities and the future of Connecticut, our citizens and their livelihood.

David Mancini.